



# The ISC Newsletter

International Society of Cryptozoology

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Editor  
J. Richard Greenwell

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## MEGAMOUTH VI CAUGHT ALIVE AND STUDIED



*The megamouth shark, discovered in 1976, photographed here and studied alive for the first time in October, 1990. This, the sixth known specimen, was caught off California and later released with attached sonic transmitters—which enabled tracking for 2 days and nights. (Mark Dell'Aquila and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.)*

In 1976, a U.S. Navy vessel off Hawaii accidentally brought up what was to represent a remarkable zoological discovery: the first specimen of a large filter-feeding shark quite unknown to science. It quickly became dubbed Megamouth by the Hawaiian press, and it turned out to be so unique that zoologists had to erect a new species, genus, and family in order to accommodate its arrival into the annals of natural history (see News and Notes, *Newsletter*, Winter, 1983). The preserved specimen is held at the Bernice P. Bishop Museum in Honolulu.

Fourteen years later, during a dramatic, short-lived event, a megamouth shark was caught alive, photographed, studied, and released. The remarkable episode began to unfold just after midnight on Sunday, October 21, 1990, when California commercial fisherman Otto Elliot, aboard his boat *Moonshiner*, found a large fish tangled in his drift swordfish

net. Sensing that the specimen was something special—he had never encountered anything like it in 16 years of fishing—he managed to untangle it, but not before getting a slip line around its large tail so he and his son Rob could bring it into Dana Point, just north of San Diego.

Moving at a purposefully slow speed, it took *Moonshiner* almost 8 hours to cover the 4.5 miles (7 km) to the dock at Dana Point. Arriving at 9:25 a.m., Elliot immediately called the nearby Sea World marine park, which contacted Robert J. Lavenberg, head of the Ichthyology Section at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. It was the L.A. County Museum that had obtained the second megamouth specimen on November 29, 1984, when it became entangled in a gill net off Santa Catalina Island. Fortunately, although the shark's death was imminent, the specimen was saved when Department of Fish and Game personnel contacted the Museum in

time for the latter to move rapidly to preserve it (see *Newsletter*, Spring, 1985). Megamouth II is now on public display in the L.A. County Museum.

The third Megamouth turned up at an unlikely spot--a beach south of Perth, Western Australia--and at an unlikely time for ISC member Tim Berra, an Ohio State University ichthyologist: on August 18, 1988, within one week of his arrival at the Western Australian Museum on sabbatical! The specimen, first thought to be a cetacean by sunbathers, is still the largest recorded--5150 mm, or almost 17 feet in length. Fortunately--only because there once again happened to be a natural history museum nearby--it was quickly retrieved and preserved (see *Newsletter*, Winter, 1988), and Megamouth III, one of the rarest zoological specimens in the world, is now on public display at the Western Australian Museum.

Two more megamouths were recorded in 1989, both in Japan's Suruga Bay, on January 23 and June 12. The first specimen, found dead, was washed away before it could be retrieved. Like all the previous specimens, it was a male. The second specimen, sex undetermined, was caught in a net in the bay, and was released unharmed. Fortunately, photos were taken of both specimens.

And then came the 1990 Dana Point

specimen, another male, again almost a stone's throw, relatively speaking, from the L.A. County Museum. When contacted, Dr. Lavenberg also moved quickly--not to preserve the specimen this time, but to keep it alive. Arriving at Dana Point at 12.30 p.m., just 3 hours after the *Moonshiner* had docked, and after ascertaining that the large fish was in fact a megamouth, he called Sea World in the hope that the marine park would be able and willing to provide facilities for keeping it alive. But they had no such facilities available, and neither did any other institution. The decision was thus made to release the shark unharmed, but advantage was taken of this dramatic and unexpected opportunity to gain as much new scientific information as possible.

Underwater photographer Mark Dell'Aquila quickly arrived at the scene with appropriate equipment. With many curious onlookers watching, dives were made to examine the shark close up; although it was sluggish and docile most of the time, it appeared to be in perfect health. Dramatic underwater photos were obtained of the 16-foot, 3-inch (4.95 m) shark--some of which are reproduced here by kind permission of the L.A. County Museum--and shark expert James McKibben prepared special sonic transmitters to track the specimen after its release. Another shark expert, Donald Nelson, offered his own

research boat, the *Discovery*, to aid in the release and subsequent tracking.

At 11.30 a.m. on Monday, October 22, just 23 hours after Dr. Lavenberg's arrival at the dock and while many others watched from other boats, *Discovery* began towing the precious specimen out to sea. Dell'Aquila then inserted two tiny transmitters under the skin of the shark's back, the line was loosened, and Megamouth VI was off on its own, diving at an angle of 70 degrees. It reached the bottom, about 140 feet (43 m) down, in just 10 seconds.

Dr. Lavenberg was keenly interested in following the shark's progress. He and his Museum colleague Jeffery Seigel had once proposed that megamouths are vertical migrators. Such vertical migrators move to the surface at night from the "deep scattering layer," which is at a depth of between 500 and 1,000 feet (about 150 and 300 m), returning to the depths at dawn. That could explain why megamouth sharks are never seen, and why they remained undiscovered until 1976. The only problem with this hypothesis is that all the known animals of this "layer" are small, a mere 2-3 inches (5-8 cm) in length. Could megamouths be the exception? Certainly, much of the vertical migration population consists of zooplankton, a rich food source for a filter-feeder like a megamouth to want to follow. What would the newly released shark now tell them?

Megamouth VI soon began swimming southwards at a steady speed of 0.6 m.p.h. (0.9 k.p.h.), and at a depth of 130 feet (40 m). At dusk, it ascended to a depth of only 40 feet (12.3 m), a position it held all night. At dawn, it dived again, and now in deeper water, it reached a depth of 553 feet (168.5 m) within 1 hour. At dusk, it again ascended to near the surface. The same descending and ascending pattern was recorded on the following day. Tracking was ended on October 24, with all participants convinced that they had conclusively demonstrated that megamouths are vertical migrators. A paper detailing the data is to be published soon.

Writing recently in the L.A. County



*Megamouth VI is temporarily held captive by a line from the surface. Being filter-feeders, megamouth sharks are docile and harmless. (Mark Dell'Aquila and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.)*



*A unique shot of Megamouth VI resting near the bottom off Dana Point, at a depth of 45 feet (14 m). (Mark Dell'Aquila and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.)*

Museum's magazine *Terra* (Vol. 30, No. 1), Dr. Lavenberg--delighted with the fortuitous circumstances surrounding the close encounter with a megamouth--states: "It seems incredible that we had no clear idea that such an animal as megamouth existed until 1976 . . . I am astounded that two captures have occurred off California in gill nets, in 1984 and 1990, but not before 1984. I suspect that they may have been caught before, even before 1976 (we are tracking down a purport-

ed 1971 catch off San Diego), and were not recognized as unique by their captors."

Of course, there are always factors that subsequently explain why a species wasn't discovered until such-and-such a time. This is a common theme in cryptozoology. The finding that megamouths are vertical migrators may be one of these factors.

Concludes Dr. Lavenberg: "Vertical

migrators can escape detection, for they are in great depths during the day and near the surface only at night, when observation is difficult. Doubtless megamouth sharks were not detected prior to 1976 at least in part because of their vertical migratory behavior and the fact that driftnets only came into usage in the early 1970's. Why more of them have not been caught in nets, why so many have suddenly been seen in such a short period recently . . . remains a mystery." □

## HIGHLIGHTS OF GALVESTON MEETING

The Society held its 10th Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, April 20, 1991, at Texas A. & M. University at Galveston, hosted by the Marine Mammal Research Program, a unit within the Department of Marine Biology.

The customary Social Hour for members and their guests was held immediately prior to the meeting, giving those attending from Texas and some other Southern and Western states an opportunity to get acquainted with one another.

Bernd Wursig, director of the Marine Mammal Research Program, who had organized the meeting--and who serves on the Editorial Board of the Society's journal, *Cryptozoology*--gave the welcoming remarks, followed by a brief presentation titled: "Cryptozoology: A Scientific Paradigm of an Age-Old Problem." Dr. Wursig discussed how certain controversial scientific pursuits throughout history have met with resistance from established branches of science because of their unorthodoxy, and how cryptozoology was a modern example of such. He reviewed various cryptozoological categories within a classification system formulated by J. Richard Greenwell in 1985 to demonstrate that cryptozoology was essentially as internally consistent and valid as any area of scientific inquiry.



Bernd Wursig



Roy Mackal

The second speaker was Society Vice President Roy P. Mackal, whose presentation was titled: "Flying Reptiles in Namibia? Report of an Expedition." Dr. Mackal related how he had traveled to Southwest Africa in the summer of 1988 with a group investigating recent reports of "flying snakes." The group included James Kosi and Douchan Gersi. Dr. Mackal had written about supposed African pterosaur reports in his 1980 book *Searching for Hidden Animals*, and was interested in investigating more recent claims of that nature.

The target area in Namibia was an isolated private property--owned by German Namibians--the location of which Dr. Mackal is keeping confidential. The desert area has many kopjes containing caves, and much archaeological material was found in them. Dr. Mackal collected reports from local people--mainly German settlers--of a mysterious flying animal. It was reportedly capable of sustained flight, thus was not just a glider. In particular, one of the animals was said to fly (mainly glide) at dusk between crevices in two kopjes separated by about a mile. The animal was described as having a wingspan close to 30 feet, and having no feathers. Daily watching sessions by the group failed to observe the animal. However, after Dr. Mack-

al's return to the U.S., Mr. Kosi--who had stayed on--claimed a sighting from a distance of about 1,000 feet. He described the animal as a giant glider, black with white markings.

The group also climbed to almost inaccessible spots on some kopjes, finding what at first appeared to be two pterosaur skulls. Later examination by experts in the U.S. determined that they were merely broken ostrich pelvises--which, curiously, have an uncanny resemblance to pterosaur skulls! On the other hand, the group could not determine how such ostrich remains could have been carried up the kopjes, to crevices that carnivores could not reach. Dr. Mackal stated that he has not written a Field Report for the Society's journal because of restrictions imposed upon him by problematical legal disputes between other expedition members which have arisen since the expedition.

The next speaker was J. Richard Greenwell, ISC Secretary, who spoke on: "Investigating the Wildman in China." Mr. Greenwell reviewed fieldwork conducted in China by himself and Ohio State University physical anthropologist Frank Poirier in late 1989 in an attempt to determine the nature of the evidence for the Chinese Yeren, reports of which are similar to North American Sasquatch reports. Their expedition, which was highlighted in a PBS and British Channel 4 documentary, did not yield proof of the Yeren, but various kinds of evidence, particularly hair analysis at Fudan University's Department of Nuclear Science, increased the probability of an unknown-to-science primate being involved.

Mr. Greenwell concluded that there are four possibilities to explain the reports: 1) all sightings are of known-to-science animals, the Yeren being merely a myth; 2) that the Plio-Pleistocene fossil ape *Gigantopithecus* survives and is responsible for some or most of the reports; 3) that a form of Pleistocene orang-utan survives on mainland Asia, and is responsible for some or most of the reports; or 4) that both *Gigantopithecus* and a fossil orang survive in China. More details may be



John Buckley

found in their Field Report in Vol. 8 of *Cryptozoology* and a Newsletter article (Summer, 1990).

Following lunch, John S. Buckley, a vertebrate paleontologist at the Texas Memorial Museum of the University of Texas at Austin, spoke on: "Nessie: An Endothermic Plesiosaur?" Dr. Buckley briefly reviewed the history of Nessie reports using illustrative examples, pointing out that the plesiosaur hypothesis originated with the 1934 Wilson (Surgeon's) photo. Loch Ness's almost constant 42°F temperature, however, would require any large non-fish vertebrate population inhabiting it to be endothermic, and there is no evidence that plesiosaurs were endothermic.

Because large body size allows heat retention, some reptiles today--such as sea turtles and the larger monitor lizards--can maintain a body temperature higher than that of their environment. Adult plesiosaurs could do so, Dr. Buckley stated, but infants and juveniles would be unable to; they simply would not survive under the temperature conditions prevailing at Loch Ness.

Addressing anatomy, Dr. Buckley compared the structure of the flippers appearing in the 1972 Rines (Academy of Applied Science) underwater photos with plesiosaur flipper structure. Plesiosaur flippers are similar to those of sea turtles and penguins, but, he

stated, not the flippers in the Rines photo. Concerning locomotion, plesiosaurs were "underwater fliers," attaining a maximum speed of 2-3 mph (3-5 kph), while the object in the Dinsdale film was moving at an estimated maximum speed of 10 mph (16 kph). Because of all these lines of evidence, Dr. Buckley concluded that any large animals inhabiting Loch Ness would not be plesiosaurs, although he considered the alternate archaeocete (primitive whale) hypothesis tantalizing.

The scheduled presentation by Vaughan A. Langman--a large-animal physiologist at Louisiana State University at Shreveport--could not take place because of his sudden inability to attend. Dr. Langman has promised to give his talk, titled "Mokele-Mbembe: Implications of Cow-Calf Relationships for the Physiology of Living Dinosaurs," at a future ISC membership meeting.

Instead of Dr. Langman's presentation, ISC Board member Paul LeBlond talked on Ogoogo, the monster of Okanagan Lake, British Columbia. Dr. LeBlond, a University of British Columbia oceanographer, showed video footage obtained at the lake by a Japanese documentary television crew in early 1991. The footage supposedly shows images of Ogoogo. However, after his own inspection, Dr. LeBlond concluded that the phenomenon observed on the video footage represents waves, not lake monsters.

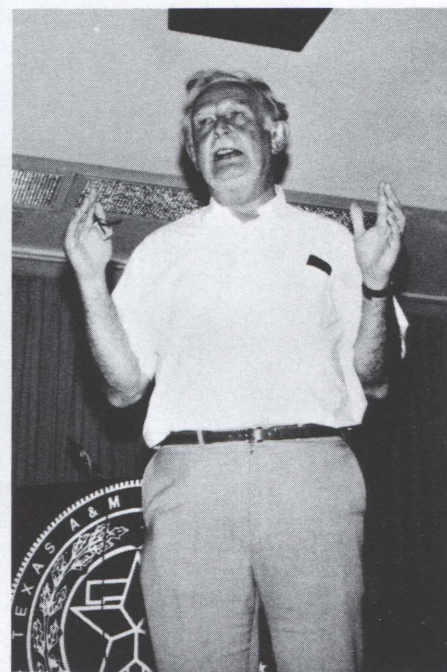
The next presentation was by William E. Evans, Dean of the Texas Maritime College at Texas A. & M., and former Administrator of the U.S. National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere. His talk was titled: "The Giant Oriental Salamander *Andreas*: Did a Miocene Form Persist into Historical Times?" Dr. Evans reviewed the early history of giant salamanders, forms which were first known from fossils and later discovered alive and also found to be recorded historically in Oriental manuscripts.

The first fossil specimen, about a meter in length, was uncovered in the

mid-1700's. By the 1830's, based on reports, rumors, and poorly preserved specimens, European scientists began to suspect that a giant salamander might actually be alive in China. This was confirmed in 1869 when a specimen was obtained by Pere David--the naturalist who also discovered Pere David's deer, the giant panda, and the golden monkey. The animal had been known to both the Chinese and Japanese for centuries, however, and had even been incorporated into their mythologies.

The first fossils of the genus *Andreas* were from North America as far back as the Miocene. A Japanese fossil *Andreas* was found in 1958, and there are no significant differences between it and the giant salamander known today from Japan. None of the living forms in Asia today are known to measure more than about 1 meter (3 feet, 3 in). However, a description from 1889 placed a maximum length for *Andreas* at 2 meters (6 feet, 6 in), and Hong Kong skull specimens indicate that the genus attained a length of over 1.5 meters (5 feet) in past decades.

In 1987, comparisons between all known fossil and living forms of *Andreas* were found to lie within the variability of a single species, indicating that the fossil form, dating as far back as the Miocene, survives to the pres-



William Evans

ent. Dr. Evans, who has agreed to prepare a paper on the subject for *Cryptozoology*, co-hosted--with ISC Board member Forrest G. Wood--the Society's Fourth Annual Membership Meeting in San Diego in 1985, when he was director of the Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute.

The final presentation of the day was a special showing by Forrest Wood of an old black-and-white film titled "The Return of the Creature." Mr. Wood, a marine mammalogist and Staff Scien-

tist Emeritus at the U.S. Naval Oceans Systems Center in San Diego, kept a perfectly straight face as he introduced what was purported to be a valuable scientific contribution to cryptozoology which he had uncovered in old archives.

The feature film was actually a parody of the 1950's classic "The Creature from the Black Lagoon." It was shot in a few days on a small budget by associates of Mr. Wood

when he was curator at Marineland of Florida in the early 1950's. The script, cinematography, sound, acting, and special effects of this little-known film were of the very lowest order--but a delight to all those present. We thank Mr. Wood for sharing this film with Society members.

Special thanks also go to Dr. Wursig for organizing and hosting the meeting, and for ensuring that ISC members had a pleasant stay in Galveston. □

## 1992 MEMBERSHIP MEETING TO BE HELD AT BROWN UNIVERSITY

The Society's 11th Annual Membership Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 16, 1992, at Brown University, in Providence, Rhode Island. The meeting, which will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Society's founding in early 1982, will be hosted by Christine Janis, a paleomammalogist at Brown. Dr. Janis serves on the Editorial Board of the Society's journal *Cryptozoology*.

The meeting will be held in Room 202 (on the ground floor) of the Biomed Center, and will begin at 9:30 a.m., following the customary Social Hour for ISC members and their guests. The Social Hour, which permits local members to meet and get to know one another, will be held between 8:30 and 9:30 a.m. As usual, there will be no registration or admission charge at the meeting. The Society has always attempted to structure its meetings as educational functions that are free and open to the public. (Note: although the meeting is open to all free of charge, the 8:30-9:30 a.m. Social Hour is for ISC members and their guests *only*.)

The program will include the following talks:

- Welcoming Remarks: "Footprints of the Marsupial Lion? A Cautionary Tale," by Christine Janis, Division of Biology and Medicine, Brown University.
- Presidential Address: "ISC: Reviewing the First Decade," by Roy P. Mackal, ISC Vice President, Chicago, Illinois.

- "Rediscovery of 'Extinct Species': Case Histories from a Field Biologist," by James D. Lazell, Jr., The Conservation Agency, Jamestown, Rhode Island.

- "The Eastern Panther in the 1990's," by Ted B. Reed, President, Friends of the Eastern Panther, Inc., Exeter, New Hampshire.

- "High Tide and an East Wind: The Life and Times of Bruce Stanley Wright," by Jay W. Tischendorf, American Ecological Research Institute, Fort Collins, Colorado.

- "The Tasmanian Tiger: Recent Evidence for the Survival of the Thylacine," James D. Lazell, Jr.

- "A Social History of the Giant Gecko in New Zealand," by Aaron M. Bauer, Department of Biology, Villanova University, Villanova, Pennsylvania, and Anthony P. Russell, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

- "A Decade of Loch Ness Fieldwork by the Academy of Applied Science," by Charles W. Wyckoff, Academy of Applied Science, Concord, New Hampshire.

- "Champ--The Lake Champlain Monster: Reviewing Ten Years of Field Research," by Joseph W. Zarzynski, Lake Champlain

Phenomena Investigation, Wilton, New York.

- "Przewalski's Horse: A Case Study of DNA Karyotyping in the Identification of Cryptozoological Animals," by Michael J. Manyak, Department of Urology, George Washington University Medical Center, Washington, D.C.

The meeting will conclude with a panel discussion titled: "The Future of Cryptozoology," an appropriate topic to address during the Society's 10th anniversary. The panel will be chaired by ISC Secretary J. Richard Greenwell, and will include Aaron Bauer, Christine Janis, James Lazell, Roy Mackal, and Charles Wyckoff.

The Society will not be responsible for hotel or meal arrangements. These must be made by members themselves. However, the Society has blocked a group of rooms at the Susse Chalet Hotel for attending ISC members. Interested parties should call the hotel directly and make their own reservations by credit card (they take MasterCard, VISA, American Express, and Diners). Prices range from \$44 (single) to \$70 (double), and include morning coffee and donuts. The address and phone number are: 341 Highland Ave. (Route 6), Seekonk, Massachusetts 02771, Tel: 508\336-7900. The hotel has a pool. A MacDonald's Restaurant is located directly across the street, and two family-style restaurants are a block or two up Route 6.

The Susse Chalet Hotel is some distance from the Brown campus, so arrangements are being made for a bus to transport those members without other means of transportation to the campus for a nominal fee. The bus will depart from the hotel at 8:00 a.m. No return bus to the hotel will be available, so it is requested that members with cars help transport those without vehicles back to the hotel. Those flying in to Providence may, of course, rent cars at the airport if they wish. Members driving to the meeting may park on the street near the Biomed Center a few blocks along

Brown Street. Taxis may be called for at East Providence Taxi, Tel. 434-2000, and East Side Taxi, Tel. 521-4200.

A special first-class mailing of the meeting program will be going out to all members in the Northeast. Those wishing additional details may call the Secretariat at (602) 884-8369 in the afternoons (Arizona time), or Dr. Janis at: 401/863-3066 (office) or 508/399-6227 (home).

Except in the case of occasional structured conferences, ISC meetings

tend to be informal. Speakers do not generally present written papers, the atmosphere is relaxed and friendly, and a good time is generally had by all. Members usually congregate at restaurants at night for further discussion and social activity.

The Brown meeting is expected to be interesting, lively, educational, and, above all, fun. All members are encouraged to attend, to bring family members and friends, and to participate in the celebration of the Society's 10th anniversary. □

## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

From time to time, members inquire about the blank space following the heading "Corporate Sponsors" on the back pages of the newsletter and journal. Why haven't corporations helped the Society financially? Why hasn't the Society actively pursued corporate support? Why even keep the heading if it's always blank? As these questions have been raised again recently in connection with the Society's financial woes, perhaps we should explain the history behind all of this.

When the Society was formed, the Board of Directors created two categories of sponsorship; one category is for individuals, and is called "Benefactor." To become a Benefactor, a person must make a one-time donation of at least US\$1,000 (or the equivalent) to the Society. This entitles the individual to be listed as a Benefactor in the Society's publications--until his or her death or the end of the world, whichever comes first.

This status also includes a Life Membership (notice the capitalization!), which means that the Benefactor will continue to receive all Society publications for life without ever having to pay anything again--unless, of course, he or she wants to. There is no other way of becoming a Life Member. Besides receiving our perpetual gratitude, we will, in exceptional circumstances (that is, for enough money), try to extend free delivery of publications to the Benefactor in the Hereafter. Details of this absolutely unique service have still to be worked out, however.

The other category created by the Board was "Corporate Sponsor." Maybe we had this peculiar idea that corporations would be stumbling over each other trying to get us to accept their donations; whatever the reason, it was decided that, to become a Corporate Sponsor, a corporation (which includes any kind of firm or institution for profit or non-profit) would have to pay a minimum of US\$1,000 or the equivalent on an annual basis in order to continue in that status.

In 1984, after some initial discouraging attempts, we put the corporate fund-raising project in the hands of our then new European Secretary, Ned Winn. Dr. Winn had had a lifetime of management experience in the corporate world in both the U.S. and Europe, had many personal contacts of his own, and we had every reason to believe that some success would be met. Dr. Winn wrote--at his own expense--a very persuasive personal letter to 275 major corporations known to disburse funds to worthy causes. Many of these companies would be recognizable to readers, as they are household names.

The letters were addressed directly to the persons charged with such outside support programs. A total of 102 corporate officers actually responded, which wasn't bad, and some of the letters were very polite and flowery. However, not a single corporation contributed one single dollar. Here is a small selection of the reasons for declining support, even a few hundred dollars:

- \* Squibb (U.S.A.): "budgetary limitations."
- \* Bayer (Germany): "our budget is extremely limited."
- \* R.J. Reynolds International (Switzerland): "budgetary constraints."
- \* ITT Europe (Belgium): "budget already totally committed."
- \* Avon (U.S.A.): "limited funds."
- \* Pilkington (U.K.): "limited amount of money."
- \* Memorex International (U.K.): "already allocated funds."
- \* Texaco (U.K.): "we simply have to draw a line."
- \* Disneyland (U.S.A.): "we do not have any [such] fund."
- \* ITT (U.S.A.): "unable to expand our contributions program."
- \* General Electric (U.S.A.): "limited resources available."
- \* Chevron (U.S.A.): "increased competition for our contributions resources."
- \* H.J. Heinz (U.K.): "our donations budget is very stretched."
- \* AT&T (U.S.A.): "present limits on funds."
- \* Plessey (U.K.): "funds . . . are limited."
- \* British Alcan Aluminium (U.K.): "small amount of money at our disposal."
- \* Du Pont International (Switzerland): "funds . . . already committed."

We could go on and on. Many corporations also mentioned how the subject of cryptozoology did not "fall" within their area of support. While in many cases this is probably quite true, some of the above statements, such as "our budget is extremely limited," leave

no impression on me whatsoever. I doubt if these corporate officers really comprehend the meaning of the phrase.

As there are no government or institutional sources for Society support, we had hoped that a few corporations would smile on us, but such was not to be. Consequently, we have survived only through the

generosity of our own individual members. Our Benefactors and Sustaining Members have accomplished what Memorex, Texaco, and AT&T said they couldn't afford. And that is why continued support from our own members is critical.

And what about that little heading "Corporate Sponsors," which sits there

all by itself on the back page? We could take it out. On the other hand, the category still officially exists, even if it remains empty. I think I will just let it sit there, alone and lonely, as a silent monument to something. To what, I'm not sure.

J. Richard Greenwell  
Editor

## 10TH ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISING DRIVE

As the Society approaches its 10th anniversary, membership still hovers at about 800. This is about 300 fewer than needed to cover all annual expenditures--resulting in the Society having to beg, borrow, and steal every year to cover its operating expenses. This also results in publications often appearing 6-8 months late.

In an attempt to and close the gap between income and expenses, the Society is undertaking a new and intensive fund-raising drive. In a communication to the Secretariat, Vice President Roy P. Mackal has directed that, among other measures, added efforts be undertaken to increase the number of new members and the re-enrollment of former members.

"It is critical that membership be increased to at least 1,000," Dr. Mackal stated in a letter to the Secretariat, "particularly when, because of the state of the U.S. economy, we will not be able to count on as much significant financial support from voluntary contributors." Dr. Mackal went on to state: "If every member got another member into the Society, that would give us a total of 1,600 members, more than enough to cover our annual shortfall. Of course, that isn't going to happen. But if only every third member recruited a new member, that would come to about 250 new members. That step alone would put the Society on a much more sound financial footing."

In line with Dr. Mackal's directive, the following actions are being implemented:

- 1) Further "bare-bones" cost-cutting is being undertaken at the

Secretariat. A plan to acquire a fax machine is being put off for the time being. Only absolutely essential expenses will be maintained.

- 2) All members are requested to recruit at least one new member who has an interest in crypto-zoology from their circle of friends or colleagues. This can be facilitated by showing them the Society's publications and its "brochure" (the one-page descriptive "Invitation for Membership"). New brochures, back order forms (which list the contents of all the newsletters and journals published since 1982), and enrollment cards are available free from the Secretariat upon request. Membership remains at US\$30 (or equivalent in currencies from Australia, Canada, France, Germany Holland, Ireland, Italy, and Switzerland) or £18.
- 3) All members who are affiliated with universities are requested to ask their libraries to subscribe to the Society's publications if they do not already do so. (Generally, public libraries are not the right market for ISC publications, except in the case of very large ones). With prevailing academic budget cuts, such requests are less successful than in the past, but many university libraries will still initiate subscriptions if faculty members make such requests. The Society charges libraries \$45 for institutional subscriptions.

Libraries should also be encouraged to acquire complete sets of back issues so that their

collections will be complete. Academic members may request from the Secretariat ISC publications ordering information sheets which were printed especially for libraries by Allen Press. Only a few dozen libraries currently subscribe to ISC publications. If this could be increased to just 100 subscriptions, the Society's financial problems would be greatly reduced.

- 4) The Secretariat is conducting a new mass mailing to several hundred former members who dropped out of the Society between 1983 and 1990. The Society's marketing consultants expect that at least 50 old members will be re-enrolled as a result.
- 5) Members who do not have a complete set of back issues of the newsletter and/or journal are encouraged to acquire them at this time. All back issues are available from the Secretariat for US\$3 (or £1.75) and US\$18 (or £11) respectively. These prices include postage. Orders over \$100 (or £60) receive a discount of 10 percent; orders over US\$200 (or £120) receive a discount of 15 percent. Newsletter and journal orders may be combined to qualify. A complete listing of all back issues, including the titles of individual articles, appeared in the rear of the latest issue (Vol. 9) of the journal.
- 6) All members are encouraged to send donations to the Society (which are tax-deductible to U.S. members). Many members have

already done so for 1991, making them Sustaining Members for the year--and they will so be listed in the last 1991 newsletter. It is hoped that our goal of 200 Sustaining Members in 1991 will be reached. Donations, however small (or large!), can be sent in

to the Secretariat at *any* time for such members to be upgraded to Sustaining Member status.

We at the Secretariat are doing our best to keep the Society rolling through these difficult economic times.

It may not appear so sometimes--particularly when newsletters arrive 6 months late--but we really are doing our best with insufficient resources. We hope that, with all of us working together on the six steps outlined above, we can pull the Society through into its second decade. □

## INGO KRUMBIEGEL 1903-1990

*The Secretariat regrets to announce the death of ISC Honorary Member Ingo Krumbiegel, considered by many to be Germany's most renowned mammalogist. He was elected an Honorary Member at the Society's founding in 1982 because of his lifelong work in cryptozoology, being the first to publish a book dedicated exclusively to the subject: Von Neuen und Unentdeckten Tierarten (Of New and Undiscovered Animal Species), Franckh'sche Verlagshandlung, Stuttgart, 1950. Dr. Krumbiegel died quite unexpectedly on October 11, 1990. The following obituary was prepared especially for the Newsletter by Prof. Dr. Gunter G. Sehm of Hamburg University.*

Ingo Krumbiegel was one of the last "classical" scholars in the best and broad sense of Goethe and Humboldt: a doctor of zoology as well as a medical doctor, zoo director, legal advisor to courts and legislatures, gifted artist, specialist in evolutionary theory, philosopher, university lecturer, popular science writer, discoverer of unknown animals, and, in the past decade, an engaged conservationist--as well as a fervent fighter against animal abuse by pharmaceutical and medical interests. It is no wonder that he had been called The Last Polyhistor.

Born on February 25, 1903, as the eldest son of a Dresden solicitor and city counselor, Krumbiegel studied medicine during the "golden twenties" in Berlin and Leipzig. He soon became an anatomy assistant, taking his doctor's degree in 1926. His thesis was on the rudimentary human gill slits and throat syringotomy. He then studied zoology, and took his second doctor's degree in 1928. This thesis was on the influence of the reproductive cycle on the life span of carabid beetles. He qualified as a university lecturer with an inaugural dissertation in 1937.

In 1933, on the very same day that the National Socialists took power in Germany, a book of his appeared under the imprint of a Jewish publisher. Although this was a mere coincidence, the Nazis considered this a purposeful "blasphemous" deed, and when he became director of the then famous Dresden Zoological Park in 1934, they saw to it that he was ousted 2 years later--to be replaced by a Nazi.

During the war, when he was curator of mammals at the Munich Museum, he received an open note from the *Reichsdozentenführer* to the effect that his political conduct had been ill-received, and that he would soon be called up for military duty in a "death squadron." He barely succeeded in avoiding this due to his epidemiological research on mice, which had meanwhile been listed as "important to the war effort"--and thus Krumbiegel himself as "indispensable."

After the war, this multitalented steadfast genius sadly experienced envy and jealousy once again. He was forced to make his living by writing popular science books, successfully exploring a second circle of readers. Eventually, he became a lecturer in biology in Hanover and curator of mammalogy at the Hanover State Museum, posts he held until the late 1960s. He then retired to the romantic town of Hamelin, with its cryptozoological mystery of the pied piper.

During his professional career, Dr. Krumbiegel undertook seven expeditions to South America, always publishing the scientific results. With his wife, he traveled to India via Afghanistan and over the Khyber Pass on the closed Road of Hashish. In the near East, he studied deforestation and mammal extinctions in historical times.



*Ingo Krumbiegel*

He dreamed of a Museum of the History of Natural History, which is now being planned in Berlin. He described numerous new mammal subspecies, as well as two new species, the Andean wolf and the white-handed colobus monkey, both of which remain controversial (see box).

In his last decade of life, Krumbiegel was still restlessly active as a prolific scientific author, as an expert witness in cruelty-to-animals model cases, and as a front-row demonstrator and speaker in pro-environmental campaigns. He particularly fought against vivisection in the so-called primate centers, being a founding member of the international league known as Doctors for the Abolition of Vivisection. Last but not least, he was also a deliverer of tortured elephants, hippos, and other large mammals held in shabby, ill-kept menageries and small circuses.

The tall gentleman was once attacked by a sinister animal tormentor who was armed with a switchblade. Although

the attacker was one-third his age, Dr. Krumbiegel, who in his schooldays had always received a grade of "excellent" in all sports, succeeded in overpowering him. "Then I simply sat on him until the police moved in," he once told me with an amused smile.

It was his deep sorrow that he no longer had any students to whom he could pass on his knowledge and ideas.

#### KRUMBIEGEL'S SPECIES AND SUBSPECIES

A List of Taxa Discovered and/or Described by Dr. phil. habil., Dr. med. Ingo Krumbiegel

(Compiled by Prof. Dr. Gunter G. Sehm)

- 1928: Minute foraminifere of the Baltic Sea, *Shepherdella encommatophila* (Protozoa, Foraminifera).
- 1940: Hairy armadillo, *Euphractus (recte Chaetophractus?) villosus desertorum* (Mammalia, Xenarthra).
- 1940: Krieg's tamandua or collared anteater, *Tamandua tetradactyla kriegi* (Mammalia, Xenarthra).
- 1941: Venezuelan paca, *Agouti paca venecuelica* (Mammalia, Rodentia).
- 1941: Lesser mara or "hare," *Dolichotis salinicolaballivianensis* (Mammalia, Rodentia).
- 1942: Krieg's tayra, *Tayra [Eira] barbara kriegi* (Mammalia, Carnivora).
- 1942: White-handed colobus monkey, *Colobus mettemichi* (Mammalia, Primates).
- 1944: Greater vicuna, *Lama [Vicugna] vicugna elfridae* (Mammalia, Artiodactyla).
- 1949: Andean wolf, *Oreocyon hagenbecki*, genus corr. 1953: *Dusicyon hagenbecki* (Mammalia, Carnivora).
- 1980: Northern plains bison, *Bison bison montanae* (Mammalia, Artiodactyla).

A slight token of his genius may be found in his more than three dozen books and his several hundred articles, papers, speeches, etc. His *Biologie der Saugetiere* (Biology of Mammals), 2 vols., 1955, is still a standard reference work.

We were all certain he would see his 90th birthday in 1993 in the best of health and activity, and I had planned to honor him with a commemorative collection of papers by friends and colleagues from all the many disciplines that he had touched. This was to be published as a *Festschrift*, a term which I believe has been introduced into English. As throughout the world of zoology, wildlife

conservation, and cryptozoology the loss of Ingo Krumbiegel will be sorely felt, I think it best, now more than ever, to honor this extraordinary man with a likewise extraordinary book, a *liber amicorum* (book of friends), to which contributions in English, French, Spanish, and German (preferably without illustrations) are now invited by the undersigned by July, 1992.

This, I feel, would be the best way to say Thank You and Farewell to a great scholar and stimulator, a man of genius and a genial man.

Gunter G. Sehm  
Hamburg, Germany

## CRYPTOLETTERS

To the Editor:

The purpose of this letter is to share with your readers an example of how well-meaning people may misidentify animals even at close range.

On December 29, 1990, I was driving west along U.S. Highway 192 near the Brevard-Osceola county line in Florida, when I came upon a small car pulled off to the side with its blinkers flashing. As I approached, I caught a glimpse of an elderly couple aiming a camera at a large, brownish animal dead on the roadside. Wondering if a Florida panther had been killed by a car, I stopped my own vehicle and walked back for a closer look. I met the man on his way back to his car. "Is that what I think it is?" I asked. "Cougar," he replied, shaking his head sadly. "We don't have too many of them left."

I stepped past his car and looked at the roadkill. It was a large, short-haired dog, solid-golden brown in color. Possibly pregnant and definitely bloated, its stout body, its flaplike ears, and its long muzzle gave it quite more the appearance of a pig than a mountain lion.

A lesson to be learned from this is that witnesses will sometimes see what they want to see, and their testimony must be carefully evaluated. Although the couple I encountered had misidentified their find, they at least had the

presence of mind to take a photograph of what they had seen. Unfortunately, I didn't.

Philip A. Cochran  
Division of Natural Resources  
St. Norbert College  
De Pere, Wisconsin, U.S.A.

To the Editor:

I'd like to alert other members about two rather amusing pieces of cryptozoological fiction by Amy Bechtel which appeared in *Analog: Science Fiction/Fantasy Magazine*. They are titled "Little Monsters" and "Business as Usual," and they appeared in the November, 1989, and July, 1991, issues respectively.

Charles Monson  
Iowa City, Iowa, U.S.A.

To the Editor:

I am an artist doing a series of works on "lake monsters," and would like the names and addresses of eyewitnesses. I can sometimes uncover further information—even when the witness has been previously questioned—because of my visual background. I can be reached at P.O. Box 1674, Rahway, New Jersey 07065.

Sheila O. Barrera  
Rahway, New Jersey, U.S.A.

To the Editor:

We have recently purchased a "mermaid" for the collections, and, as this could not be accommodated within our departmental acquisitions policy, my position description has been extended to include curatorial responsibility for cryptozoology and fake animal specimens. I am now working with Geoff Swinney, our Curator of Fish, on the anatomy and evolution of the mermaid, and we are attempting a survey of mermaid and mermen specimens in museums and private collections.

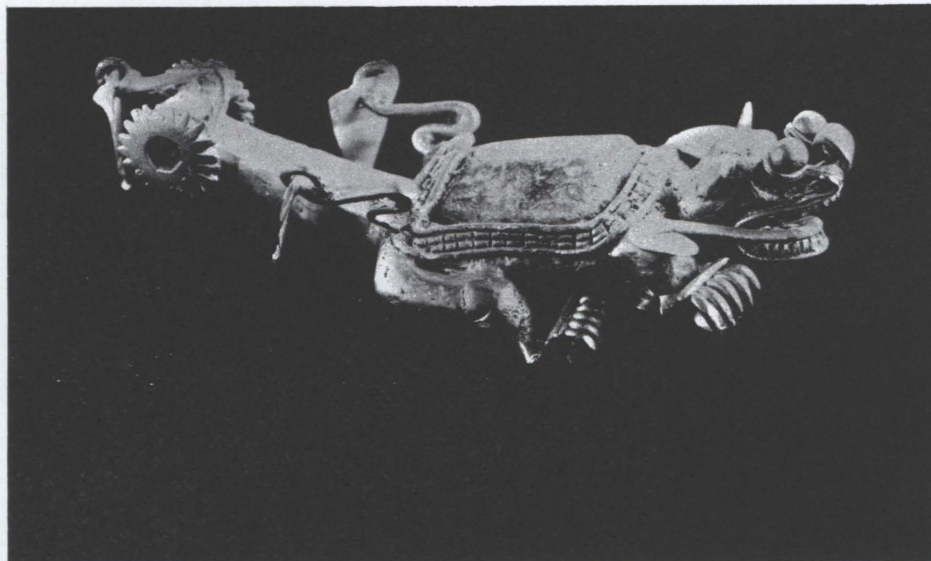
Thus, we would welcome any information from ISC members concerning such specimens, whether they be extant or destroyed. References to illustrations in local publications, ephemera, manuscript notes, and correspondence may provide important clues to the whereabouts of specimens. If any ISC members know of references to living or preserved merfolk, we would be very interested in hearing from them. Even records of recent sightings would be appreciated. (Please address communications to: David Heppell, Department of Natural History, National Museums of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, Scotland EH1 1JF, U.K.)

David Heppell  
Mollusca Section  
Department of Natural History  
Royal Museum of Scotland  
National Museums of Scotland  
Edinburgh, Scotland, U.K.

To the Editor:

I would like to bring to your attention a small gold and jade pendant which was recovered from an archaeological site in Panama before World War II. It is now in the collection of the University of Pennsylvania Museum. The conventional supposition is that it represents a jaguar or crocodilian.

The late naturalist Ivan T. Sanderson discussed this artifact in his 1972 book Investigating the Unexplained, interpreting it as some kind of construction equipment. However, I am struck by its resemblance to a glyptodont. There seems to be a shell, while the head,



*The Panamanian pendant. Memory of a glyptodont? (University Museum, University of Pennsylvania)*

claws, and tail make the piece resemble a glyptodont far more than either a jaguar or crocodilian.

Is it possible that this Pleistocene animal, even if it was extinct at the time the pendant was made--over 1,000 years ago--survived long enough to be remembered in myth? Has anybody else noted the similarity?

David H. Hinson  
Chandler, North Carolina, U.S.A.

To the Editor:

I am a mammalogist interested in the discovery of small mammal species--or the study of little-known or isolated populations--and I would like to hear from others interested in joining a group of "cryptomicromammalogists." I may be reached at: 3 Bd. Sevigne, 21000 Dijon, France.

Patrick Brunet-Lecomte  
Dijon, France

To the Editor:

In a recent book by science writer Daniel Cohen (The Encyclopedia of Monsters, New York: Dorset Press, 1989, pp. 240-41), there is a description of the rare Wisconsin swamp *hodag*. This creature of folklore has no leg joints and cannot lie down, so it dozes by leaning

against a tree. Only by cutting such a tree can the beast be caught; when its weight pushes the tree over, both the tree and the creature fall, and the *hodag* cannot rise again to its feet.

The description of this North American beast mirrors one from Roman Europe, which appears in a book by Julius Caesar (The Gallic War and Other Writings of Julius Caesar, New York: Modern Library, 1957, p. 141). It is amazing when one considers the geographical range of some species!

Hugh H. Trotti  
Decatur, Georgia, U.S.A.

To the Editor:

I am particularly interested in the search for the Sasquatch. I am 72 years young, and my son and I have found quite a lot of Bigfoot evidence, such as logs torn apart, etc. I hope one can be killed or taken alive in my lifetime. I believe that one could be taken alive, but I don't have the funds to do it.

I was a government hunter with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for 30 years, retiring in 1973. There have been several sighting reports in this county over the years.

Francis F. Williams  
Lebanon, Oregon, U.S.A.

**Society Purpose and Policy:** The International Society of Cryptozoology serves as a focal point for the investigation, analysis, publication, and discussion of all matters related to animals of unexpected form or size, or unexpected occurrence in time or space. The Society also serves as a forum for public discussion and education, and for providing reliable information to appropriate authorities. The Society takes no position on which of these supposed animals may actually exist. Opinions may be expressed by individual members, but they are personal ones, and do not reflect any official or unofficial Society policy. Likewise, the Society takes no position concerning the authenticity of any given cryptozoological evidence or events.

**Memberships and Subscriptions:** Membership and subscription inquiries should be addressed to the ISC Secretariat, P. O. Box 43070, Tucson, Arizona 85733, U.S.A. Membership is US\$30 a year or £18 a year. Payment may be made by personal check if drawn against a U.S. or U.K. bank. Persons donating any additional amounts become Sustaining Members. Membership includes the receipt of *The ISC Newsletter* quarterly and the journal *Cryptozoology* annually. Couples may take out a joint membership for US\$35 or £21 (only one set of publications is sent). Institutions such as corporations, zoological parks and aquariums, and libraries may obtain institutional subscriptions to the Society's publications for US\$45 a year. There are no additional fees for membership or institutional subscriptions outside of the U.S.A. Although payment by non-U.S./U.K. members is preferred in US\$ or £ Sterling (by bank draft drawn against a U.S. or U.K. bank, or international postal money order), individuals in Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Holland, Ireland, Italy, and Switzerland may pay by personal cheque in their own currencies provided the equivalent of US\$30 (using the exchange rate current at the time) is sent. Members in other European countries may pay by Eurocheque in £ Sterling provided that £18 is sent. Eurocheques in other currencies cannot be accepted. All payments should be sent to the ISC Secretariat at the above address.

**Back Issues:** All back issues of both *The ISC Newsletter* and the journal *Cryptozoology* are available for US\$3 or £1.75 and US\$18 or £11 respectively. These prices include postage costs. Orders over US\$100 or £60 receive a discount of 10%. Orders over US\$200 or £120 receive a discount of 15%. Free order forms listing all back publications may be requested from the ISC Secretariat. Members in Europe may, if they prefer, order back publications from: Sally Parsons, 27 Enys Road, Flat 3, Eastbourne, East Sussex, England BN21 2DG, U.K. All orders, whether sent to Arizona or England, must be accompanied by payment. The above payment conditions apply.

**Field Medical Advisor:** Michael J. Manyak, M.D., Department of Urology, George Washington University Medical Center, 2150 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037; Tel.: (202) 994-4002. Members planning fieldwork, particularly in tropical areas, are encouraged to contact Dr. Manyak for medical/health care advice.

**Honorary Members:** Andre Capart (Belgium); Marjorie Courtenay-Latimer (South Africa); John Green (Canada); The Lord Hunt of Llanfair Waterdine (U.K.); Marie-Jeanne Koffmann (U.S.S.R.); Ingo Krumbiegel (Germany); Theodore Monod (France); Robert Titmus (Canada).

**Benefactors:** Rolf Auster (U.S.A.); G. A. Buder, III (U.S.A.); Robert C. Dorion (Guatemala); Michael T. Martin (U.S.A.); Gale J. Raymond (U.S.A.); Hugh H. Trotti, Jr. (U.S.A.); Kurt Von Nieda (U.S.A.); Edward B. Winn (Switzerland); Bette Wolfskill (U.S.A.); Count F. C. Zedlitz (Argentina).

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## The ISC Newsletter

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